



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Building on Momentum: A Look at Ward 6 Middle Schools

Monday, April 26, 2010  
J.O. Wilson Elementary School  
6:30 – 8 PM



# Tonight's Agenda

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Goals: Solicit ideas and reactions to program options and identify short-term and long-term reform priorities.

- I. Overview of Planning Process
  - II. Focus Areas for Discussion
  - III. Break-Out Groups
  - IV. Next Steps
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## Leveraging our Strengths in Ward 6

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- Schools of choice
  - Enrollment increase
  - OOB applications and waitlists
- Eastern HS
  - New program, facility, leadership – total fresh start
- Diverse Program Options
  - Catalyst, Montessori, Reggio Emilia, Spanish Immersion, Museum Magnet
- Proactive Communities
  - Engaged parent groups
  - Individual parents
  - Community stakeholders

## DCPS Core Beliefs

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We believe that:

- ❖ All children, regardless of background or circumstance, can achieve at the highest levels.
- ❖ Achievement is a function of effort, not innate ability.
- ❖ We have the power and responsibility to close the achievement gap.
- ❖ Our schools must be caring and supportive environments.
- ❖ It is critical to engage our students' families and communities as valued partners.
- ❖ Our decisions at all levels must be guided by robust data.

# Guiding Principles for School Planning

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- ❖ Commitment to support and strengthen current middle school programs
- ❖ Embrace diversity in our schools as a key strength
- ❖ With the proper support, any school can become high-performing

## Planning Objectives

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- Identify key components of a quality middle school
- Identify critical levers of change for increased student achievement
- Align programs across Eastern feeder pattern
- Support and strengthen Jefferson, Eliot-Hine and Stuart-Hobson middle schools

Deliverable: Draft plan that identifies short and long term strategies to support and strengthen Ward 6 middle schools. The plan will also include a timeline for implementation that will span over the next few years.

## Focus Area: Academic Rigor

### Worksheet

- Diverse course selection
  - Advanced classes (Algebra, AP)
  - Foreign language
- Opportunities for advanced students
- Differentiated instruction
- Intensive intervention to get struggling students back on track

# Focus Area: Program Alignment

## Worksheet

- Options to support elementary programs through middle and high schools
  - Spanish immersion
  - Arts
  - World language
  - Museum studies
  - Montessori
- Preparing for Eastern
  - World language
  - IB
  - General rigor across all content areas in elementary and middle school feeders

# Focus Area: Grade Configuration

## Worksheet

- Examples of proposed changes from parents:
  - Expand Brent and Miner through 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Expand Montessori through 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Adjust grade configuration of Stuart Hobson (6-8)
  - Adjust grade configuration of Watkins (1-5)
- Weighing the pros and cons of the PK-8 model
- Aligning timing of any grade configuration changes with facilities plans

## Focus Area: School Culture

### Worksheet

- Highly effective school staff at all levels
- Respect for diversity
- Safety
- Conducive learning environment
- Orderly hallways
- Culture of excellence
- High achievement expectations

## Break-Out Groups

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### Key Questions:

1. What are the three most important things DCPS can do to make you, as a parent, confident in our middle schools?
2. What qualities or programs do you have in your elementary school that you would like to continue in middle school?

## Next Steps

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- Hold community meeting to share draft plan and solicit feedback
- Revise plan
- DCPS Point of contact:  
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